

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A two-piece water box assembly includes a water box main body and an inline adapter ring. The water box main body and inline adapter ring define the water box cutting chamber, with the inline adapter ring being positioned between the water box main body and the die plate. The adapter ring is fastened through the die plate to the extruder inlet housing with a first plurality of fastening elements. The water box main body is also coupled to the extruder inlet housing, through apertures in the die plate and inline adapter ring, by a second plurality of fastening elements, preferably less in number than the first plurality of fastening elements. When access to the cutter hub or cutting chamber is necessary for cleaning or otherwise, the water box main body can be removed easily by unfastening the second fastening elements only, while the inline adapter ring remains fixed to the die plate and extruder inlet housing, thus maintaining the seal therewith and the die plate insulation gasket.